

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing transactions  
5 involving financial securities in a secondary market, said method comprising the steps of:  
establishing a plurality of market segments in said secondary market, each  
of said market segments having at least one market participant;  
receiving a bid for one or more financial securities, said bid including one  
or more authorized market segments;  
10 dividing by a processor device said bid into a plurality of divided bids;  
posting by said processor device each of said divided bids to one or more  
of said authorized market segments; and  
comparing ~~said~~ by said processor device each posted divided bid to other  
pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids  
15 that are in proximity to each divided ~~said received~~ bid; ~~and~~  
~~posting said bid only to said one or more authorized market segments,~~  
~~wherein at least one of said steps is performed by a processor.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of  
20 preventing said bid from being posted to market participants not in said one or more  
authorized market segments.

3. (Cancelled)

- 25 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of  
establishing a communication channel between entities associated with two bids that are  
in proximity.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein two bids are in  
proximity if they have parameters that are within a given threshold of each other.

30

- 6.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A system for processing transactions involving financial securities in a secondary market, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

establish a plurality of market segments in said secondary market, each of said market segments having at least one market participant;

receive a bid for one or more financial securities, said bid including one or more authorized market segments;

divide said bid into a plurality of divided bids;

post each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and

compare said each posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each

divided said received bid; and

~~post said bid only to said one or more authorized market segments.~~

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said processor is further configured to prevent said bid from being posted to market participants not in said one or more authorized market segments.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said processor is further configured to establish a communication channel between entities associated with two bids that are in proximity.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein two bids are in proximity if they have parameters that are within a given threshold of each other.

22.-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A tangible article of manufacture processing transactions involving financial securities in a secondary market, comprising:

a tangible computer readable recordable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means  
5 being executable by a processor comprising:

a step to establish a plurality of market segments in said secondary market, each of said market segments having at least one market participant;

a step to receive a bid for one or more financial securities, said bid including one or more authorized market segments;

10 a step to divide said bid into a plurality of divided bids;

a step to post each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and

a step to compare said each posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in  
15 proximity to each divided ~~said received~~ bid; ~~and~~

~~a step to post said bid only to said one or more authorized market segments.~~

33.-35. (Cancelled)